Double stack container on Kandla-Bhatinda rail line

3524. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for providing facility of double stack container on Kandla-Bhatinda railway line is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether any proposal has been prepared by Railway authorities to provide such double stack facility in any other part of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have cleared the running of Double Stack Container trains on Jaipur-Pipavav and on Jaipur-Mundra Port routes and such trains have run on these routes.

New railway lines in Kerala

3525. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals for new railway line in Kerala;

(b) whether Government is aware that the Nilambur-Nanjangud railway line would greatly benefit the information technology industry in Kerala; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to sanction this line on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An updating survey for construction of Nilambur Road-Nanjangud new line has been completed recently. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 238.40 kms. long new line has been assessed as Rs. 1742.109 crore with Rate of Return of (-)5.907%. In view of a number of major IT industrial houses setting up industries in the States of Kerala and Karnataka, travel needs of their employees have also been taken into consideration in this report for the proposed new line for Nilambur Road—Nanjangud. Further consideration of this proposal would be possible once the decision on the results of the survey are finalised.

Model stations

†3526. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expansion and advancement of world-class modern stations, is under consideration in year 2008;

(b) the names of stations alongwith station-wise details thereof; and

(c) the estimated total expenditure involved in it?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty six (26) stations have now been identified for development as world class stations, these are—Agra, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bangalore, Bhopal (Habibganj), Bhubaneshwar, Bijwasan (Delhi), Carnac Bunder (Mumbai CST), Chandigarh, Chennai Central, Gaya, Guwahati, Howrah, Jaipur, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Mathura, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna, Pune, Secunderabad, Thiruvananthapuram Central, Tirupati and Varanasi.

(c) Development of railway stations as world class stations has been planned through Public Private Partnership by leveraging the surplus land and air-space of above stations. Precise expenditure to be incurred by the private concessionaire cannot be indicated.

Maglev trains

3527. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbaikars, who have to endure an agonizing commute in crowded suburban trains everyday could soon be able to find the relief in the form of state-of-the-art magnetic leviated or Maglev trains running at a speed of upto 300 kmph;

(b) whether six bidders have filed expressions of interest with Maharashtra Government for appointments of consultants for the mega projects;

(c) whether these projects would cost Rs. 8000 to 30,000 crores and Government intends, to develop a high speed rail system in the State as the State is spread over 3 lakh sq km; and

(d) by when final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, Government of Maharashtra has decided to appoint a Consultant for the feasibility study of the High Speed Train in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The technology is not yet decided.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A Consultant is being appointed by Maharashtra Government for feasibility study. Presently, there are no cost estimates for the rail links.

After receipt of feasibility study, further action including preparation of Detailed Project Report can be taken.

Infrastructure development on PPP basis

3528. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Railways is undertaking infrastructure development on public-private partnership (PPP) basis; and

(b) if so, the details of projects sanctioned under that scheme and the conditionalities involved in PPP model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain areas such as development of world class stations, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public private partnership route.